

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR EA/PRCM AND EA/EX

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1. SUMMARY: THESE ARE THE MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS:

USLO'S STAFFING COMPLEMENT IS 35 BUT OUR APARTMENT ALLOCATION IS ONLY 28. PROPER WAREHOUSING IS NON-EXISTENT; THE PROBLEM OF OBTAINING HOUSEHOLD SERVANTS IS ONLY BEING PARTIALLY RESOLVED;

THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICES BUREAU (DSB) CONTINUES WITHDRAWING OUR CHINESE STAFF AFTER LENGTHY USLO TRAINING. END SUMMARY.

2. HOUSING: HOUSING IS THE NUMBER ONE ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEM. DSB HAS SHOWN AND APPARENTLY GENUINE DESIRE TO ASSIST USLO IN THIS AREA. THE FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT QUARTERS SIMPLY ARE UNAVAILABLE. A NEW APARTMENT COMPLEX SHOULD BE READY THIS FALL, AND USLO MAY RECEIVE SOME OF THE NEW QUARTERS.

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3. ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THE SIZE OF THE APARTMENTS. SINGLE EMPLOYEES ARE ESPECIALLY CRAMPED. LACK OF CLOSETS, STORAGE AREAS AND SPACE FOR ENTERTAINMENT OR REPRESENTATIONAL ACTIVITY CREATE A HARDSHIP. USLO WISHES TO TRADE ITS ONE-BEDROOM PLACES FOR TWO OR THREE-BEDROOMS. THE DSB IS NONCOMMITTAL AND IS WITHHOLDING ACTION UNTIL LARGER QUARTERS ARE LESS AT A PREMIUM.

4. WAREHOUSING: THIS IS A CRITICAL PROBLEM. THE DSB RENTS TO USLO, SMALL, ONE CAR GARAGES FOR STORAGE AREAS. THE GARAGES, SCATTERED AROUND THE DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVES ARE SUBJECT TO FLOODING, DUST AND THIEVERY. THEIR SMALLNESS PREVENTS STORAGE OF BULK ITEMS. LIFTVANS REMAIN OUTSIDE FOR MONTHS. LACK OF STORAGE PREVENTS USLO FROM HAVING AN ADEQUATE INVENTORY, ESPECIALLY OF FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS. ON THE USLO COMPOUND OPEN LIFTVANS ARE USED FOR HOLDING OFFICE SUPPLIES. DSB HAS OFFERED A SMALL, OPEN SPACE AT THE SAN LI TUN COMPOUND BUT IT IS ONLY GOOD FOR PARKING VEHICLES. DSB IS NOW CONSTRUCTING A SMALL "EARTHQUAKE SHACK" ON THE COMPOUND. OF NECESSITY, IT WILL BE USED FOR STORAGE. THESE STOPGAP METHODS WILL NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

5. ROTATION OF THE CHINESE STAFF: THE DSB POLICY OF PULLING OUT USLO'S SEMI-TRAINED STAFF KEEPS ADMIN OFF BALANCE. THIS WEEK, DESPITE USLO'S REQUEST THAT ACTION BE WITHHELD PENDING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, THE GSO'S ENGLISH-SPEAKING SUPPLY CLERK WAS REPLACED BY AN INEXPERIENCED, NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING YOUTH. THE EXPERIENCED CARPENTER WAS REMOVED DURING A MAJOR REMODELING PROJECT AND THE GARDENER WENT THE SAME WAY. ONE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTOR'S REPLACEMENT ARRIVED SEVEN MONTHS LATER. FOR ADMIN THE WHIMSICAL FLOW OF PERSONNEL IS A DEFEATING AND FRUSTRATING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLICY.

6. HOUSEHOLD SERVANTS: ALTHOUGH NOT A CRITICAL ISSUE, THE NON-AVAILABILITY OF SERVANTS IS A MORALE FACTOR. USLO AND DSB STILL HAVE POLITE DISAGREEMENTS OVER DSB'S AILURE TO ASSIGN SERVANTS TO SINGLE PERSONS. SEVERAL WOMEN EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR HELP FOR WELL OVER A YEAR. DSB ALSO REFUSES TO PERMIT CHINESE FEMALES TO WORK IN THE HOME OF A SINGLE MALE.

7. FBO STAFF STUDY: ALTHOUGH NOT A CURRENT PROBLEM, THE DEPT MAY NOW WISH TO CONSIDER ASKING FBO TO CONDUCT A SURVEY TO DETERMINE THE BUILDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS MISSION'S FUTURE REQUIREMENTS. PERHAPS AN FBO TEAM COULD VISIT HERE TO FAMILIARIZE THAT OFFICE WITH PEKING'S BUILDING CODES, SITES, MATERIAL, LABOR EXPERTISE AND COSTS. WHILE THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MISSION COMPOUND MAY BE SOME YEARS AWAY, THE SPADE WORK SHOULD BEGIN NOW.

8. IN SUMMATION, THE POST HAS GOOD RAPPORT WITH THE DSB WHICH IN TURN APPEARS TO WISH TO HELP SOLVE USLO'S ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS. IF, HOWEVER, DURING

THE SECRETARY'S VISIT THE SUBJECT OF USLO'S URGENT
NEED FOR MORE APARTMENTS AND A WAREHOUSE CAN BE
RAISED INFORMALLY, THE CHINESE MIGHT RESPOND BY
MAKING A GREATER EFFORT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL
SPACE, PROVIDED IT IS AVAILABLE.
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